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29 September 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: CFP

SUBJECT: Interview with Brigadier General John Magruder, Retired.

1. As arranged I saw General Magruder at 11:00 A.M., 29 September. General Magruder informed me that he is now concerned exclusively with the questions of establishing effective and permanent contact between OPC and the Department of National Defense. His present status is that of a Special Assistant to Secretary Johnson with whom he deals directly. He will, however, use the facilities of the ^{OPC} ~~mainly~~ organization in the Department. He added that he was not charged with responsibilities concerning secret intelligence.

2. General Magruder said that he envisages a permanent setup consisting of a Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense. His duties would lie on that level exclusively plus coordination of a section comprising about six officers under the Joint Chiefs of Staff but for statutory reasons not formally assigned to the National Defense Staff. This group would handle planning liaison with OPC and would subordinate all operational liaison between OPC and the armed services. He said that before formally advancing this idea, he would have to consult with General Gruenther. He added that Air Force was advancing the proposal that they should be the chosen military instrument to handle all contacts with OPC, but that he personally disliked this idea because of the inter services interests of OPC.

3. General Magruder said he viewed his sole job at present as setting up this organizational arrangement and that he refused to concern himself with any of the concrete operational problems which are pending between OPC and the Defense Department.

4. General Magruder said that Secretary Johnson was now very much interested in the OPC program, but was in actual fact ignorant concerning the organization and its activities. He felt that it was one of his important duties to arouse Mr. Johnson's interest and to see that he obtain a thorough understanding of the organization. I raised, at this point, the question of whether it would be politic for Mr. Johnson to completely inform himself of OPC's activities in view of his vulnerability to public inquiry. General Magruder felt at some future time Mr. Johnson might well wish to restrict himself to matters of only general significance, but since at this time it was a question of engaging his interest he felt that we should inform the Secretary in considerable detail and in as stimulating a manner as possible.

TJB/mtd

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Acting Chief

Planning Support Staff

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AREA	FUNCTION	DOC DATE CLASS
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	Defense	
	JCS	
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	CA	
	Liaison (interagency),	
	MAGRUDER, Brig Gen, John	
	HALABY, Najeeb E.	

IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT

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Memo from [REDACTED] Acting Chief, Planning Support Staff [OPC] to CPP, [OPC]. Subject: Interview with Brig. General John Magruder, Retired.

ABSTRACT NOTATION REFERENCES

General Magruder said at meeting on 29 September 1949 that he is now concerned exclusively with establishing effective and permanent contact between OPC and Department of National Defense. His present status is that of a Special Assistant to Secretary Johnson with whom he deals directly. He will use the facilities of the Halaby organization in the Department. He added he was not charged with responsibilities concerning secret intelligence. He explained his ideas that there should be a permanent small staff for liaison at Sec. Def. and JCS level.

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